

2007 Communications Survey Results

339 responded...34% return rate

Please indicate if you have ever utilized the following Township services in the past two years:

- 86% voted in an election
- 79% visited the park
- 78% used the library
- 68% participated in community events
- 40% visited the web site
- 33% obtained dog license
- 30% registered to vote
- 24% obtained assessment information
- 24% called for community information
- 20% obtained water/sewer information
- 19% called 911 for police
- 17% obtained building electrical, plumbing, mechanical permit
- 14% used notary services
- 14% applied for a passport
- 13% inquired about property tax/tax deferments
- 12% obtained zoning information
- 11% called 911 for fire/ambulance
- 9% obtained burning permit
- 8% inquired about cemetery
- 6% taken part in senior citizens activities
- 4% obtained rental registration information
- 1% inquired about liquor license

Do you believe you receive enough information about what is happening in the Township?

- 73% yes
- 27% no

What is your primary source of obtaining information?

- 84% Advance
- 69% Announcer
- 41% Grand Rapids Press
- 40% outdoor sign in front of Township office
- 37% Annual Township newsletter
- 21% Township website
- 11% public Township meetings
- 6% Charter Public Service Channel 21

What other ways could the Township relay information?

- Mailings
- Emails
- Monthly/quarterly newsletters
- Postings/stuffers/flyers
- Public billboard
- Leave messages on our answer machines
- Radio
- Word of mouth
- We need an Allendale newspaper
- Put news articles on web site

Have you ever attended any of the following meetings?

- 22% Planning Commission
- 9% Board
- 6% Board of Appeals
- 6% Board of Review
- 2% Downtown Development Authority
- 1% Parks and Recreation Committee
- 1% Library Committee

Comments on current businesses

Positive...

- Area has built up and opened great new businesses
- The shopping grown is attracting college students...seniors enjoy it as well
- Business owners are some of the best ever
- Kudos...the business owners are pleasant and really give customer service
- Most of our day to day needs are met by businesses right here in town
- We still have the small town feel through unification in development...keep raising the standards
- New Family Fare is great
- I think we have a good mix of businesses
- I like seeing all the new businesses, restaurants and new buildings...they look great...stick to quality
- Walgreens is great
- New buildings are looking great!

Negative...

- We have enough businesses here
- I chose to take most of my business outside of the township
- Too many used car lots
- Dumpy businesses on LMD...run down
- Too many retail spaces available and more coming that we do not need
- Allendale looks trashy
- Sorry to see we no longer have a florist shop
- No more restaurants
- No more liquor establishments
- No more pizza places
- Too many restaurants closing
- No more party stores
- Need more selection of stores and restaurant...this would draw customers from surrounding communities
- Need more fast food restaurants
- Need nice family style and franchise restaurants

New businesses needed

Banks...

- Need more variety of banks

Stores...

- Need additional video store
- Stores like Walmart, Target, Meijers
- Home center like Menards, Lowes, Home Depot
- Office supply store like Staples, Office Depot
- Clothing store
- Bookstore
- Hallmark store
- Christian bookstore
- Healthy Harvest Foods
- Bakery
- Florist
- Music store
- Fitness center
- Bike shop
- Fabric store

Miscellaneous businesses needed...

- Theater
- Bowling alley
- Bars/dance clubs
- Health clinic
- Recreation center
- Roller rink
- Emergency housing for those who need it
- A downtown like Holland
- Dog kennel
- YMCA/YWCA
- Orthodontist

When you first moved to Allendale, what was your impression of the community?

81% positive
17% indifferent
2% negative

Please elaborate:

Positive...

- It was a good ole boy club, better now
- Friendly area, not too busy, easy to get to the lake
- Small, community feel, safe
- Felt good to walk to stores, post office, etc...safe
- Allendale was not open to GVSU...no businesses catered to the students...big improvement
- Friendly people...clean and neat
- It is a midway point between our two places of employment
- New growth, young families, good school
- Liked the small town feel
- Clean, growing area
- Quite, close knit community
- Very small town, friendly
- Fast growing community...not too big, not too small...people concerned about each other
- Good place to raise a family
- Rural...convenient for jobs
- Good schools for the kids, good stores
- We felt at home immediately
- We like the small town atmosphere and rural community
- Friendly...easy to get around
- Quiet, friendly neighborhood

Positive...(continued)

- Small town feel with conveniences
- Nice community, active with GVSU, generally quiet and peaceful...safe...has almost everything here that we need
- We found the condo on water that we were looking for in Allendale...that drew us here and we like it here
- When we first decided to move to Allendale I thought it was out in the boonies, but developing nicely
- My husband and I felt this was a quiet, safe community to raise our family
- Quiet, safe, small community, no gangs, no graffiti, no squealing tires

Negative...

- Hard to break into the social aspects as a newcomer
- Few businesses
- Felt like we stepped back into time
- Very narrow minded and I didn't appreciate being asked if I what church I belonged to
- Small town, not much going on
- It was boring here growing up, until we started to grow after the expansion of Lake Michigan Drive

What is your impression of Allendale today?

80% positive

14% indifferent

6% negative

Please elaborate:

Positive...

- Still retains small town feel
- Having more services in town is great
- I have been here 15 years...great to see the progress
- I have enjoyed seeing Allendale grow...the town I came from has not grown and is slowly dying
- Much better than years ago...good ole boys still have some power...but they are losing it
- Keeps getting better
- A very nice place to live
- Love living here...great town
- My wife and I chose to live here in Allendale...raised our family here...no regrets...we are proud of A'dale
- Great college and high school sports!
- Great community...close and cohesive feeling
- Great community besides the ground water issue

Positive...

- Neighbors are friendly, businesses welcoming
- Allendale has only gotten better and better
- We are very happy with Allendale, with the exception of the tax hike we received
- Cozy community...I love living in Allendale
- Tax base is excellent
- It is a growing, diversified community with proactive decisions made
- The community has adapted to the expansion of the township
- Fast growing...lots of services for those in need
- A lot of people in Allendale care about the community
- We really like living here!
- Great progress in business and education
- Overall, we are in agreement with the changes that have taken place
- I'm happy with the growth...I also appreciate the thought taken in building design
- Even though we have grown and traffic has increased...still like living here
- Nice, quite, clean
- Close to Lake Michigan
- We are growing....more options...we don't have to leave the community as often
- It is exciting to see the growth
- I love our community
- I am excited about the recent growth in our community...Allendale is a nice place to be
- Have seen some very wonderful changes here
- Almost everything can be done right here, but it is still small and friendly
- People are more accepting of newcomers now than they were years ago
- We are happy to see that a Catholic church is coming and appreciate being allowed to hold services in the Christian Schools...it helps us feel that we belong
- Happy to see the growth
- Very glad to have doctors, dentists, eye care, dry cleaners, pharmacy, etc., in Allendale...we are lucky to have these close by
- Very happy with the growth and new businesses...also the Senior program
- Good growth and a nice balance of businesses/services
- Growing but still in touch with the people's needs
- Easy access to stores
- Close proximity to Lake Michigan
- Great Civic Theater group
- Stable community
- Great strides to increase commerce and visual appeal and services
- Good neighborhoods...like the small community
- Much more welcoming to outsiders now
- I really enjoy living here and often encourage people looking for a home to look our way
- Nice quiet community

Allendale today

Positive...continued

- Not as conservative...that's good
- I'm proud of Allendale
- Love that I can walk or ride my bike to the bank, grocery store, library, park, etc...keep the small town feel
- Several improvements have been made to the park, the roads, landscaping...Allendale is a very nice place to live
- Allendale is home...I love it here
- Like the small town

Negative...

- Allendale is a pass through community
- We are missing a "downtown" area
- Too many empty houses
- Unplanned growth
- Loss of open land
- We need a real downtown, not just a stretch of highway
- Too much change
- The town used to really have a small town feel...I feel it really is losing that feeling...I also feel bad that we had allowed businesses to open on Sundays and have liquor
- Has grown a lot
- Subdivision lots are too small...need larger lots
- Reduction of farm land and the water table are concerns to us
- It's becoming less friendly all around
- A lot of new people making us change to their ways, not ours
- It's getting too big
- We seem to be very worried about making Allendale an upscale township...even at the cost of tax money
- Poor economy...watch spending on appearances
- More rushed...people are more to themselves, not as neighborly
- Avoid sprawl...keep things condensed
- Allendale is becoming an island, excluding surrounding communities
- I prefer to shop at businesses that keep the Sabbath
- Don't like crowded stores and long lines
- Too many sirens

Check the reasons you choose to live in Allendale:

- 55% small town character
- 51% affordable land/housing
- 47% central location to other communities
- 46% family and/or friends live nearby
- 43% feeling of safety
- 41% appearance of the community
- 35% school system
- 20% rural subdivisions
- 18% Grand Valley State University

Please indicate which of the following you believe would make Allendale a better place to live:

- 56% maintaining small town feel
- 51% protection of trees/natural features
- 37% agricultural preservation
- 31% expanded sidewalk system
- 27% high standards of quality for housing
- 23% downtown area
- 21% more interaction with the GVSU community
- 21% commercial business growth
- 20% community center
- 20% open spaces in developments
- 16% public transportation
- 16% additional public parks
- 15% industrial base growth
- 13% additional police officers
- 13% expanded public water and sewer system
- 12% expanded street light system
- 8% additional aesthetic landscaping
- 6% additional fire station

General comments

Aesthetics...

- I like how the township is moving forward to beautify the town
- Community is kept neat and clean
- Improvements being made in Allendale are wonderful
- Love to see Allendale spruce up...very appealing
- Continue to improve the looks along M-45...what a difference
- Great to see nicer store fronts
- Doing a nice job with aesthetics and landscaping

Future business development...

- Continued industrial growth is important for our tax base
- I think there needs to be a hold on more restaurants...I am not sure that we are a large enough community to support them
- Growing too fast
- Need places for older singles to go...dining, dancing, entertainment
- Need a downtown
- Too many vacant store fronts and more being built
- I feel that the Township, while abiding by the master plan, makes it difficult for new businesses or restaurants to come to Allendale
- Sign ordinance is too strict

GVSU...

- Love having GVSU here...huge plus
- The community is missing out by not doing more with GVSU and using their talent
- One of our best assets is GVSU graduates...need to keep them here
- Need still more connections between GVSU and community...getting better though
- Great fitness center...make it available to residents with lower membership fees
- Keep student housing east of 52nd
- Less college housing
- Concerned that decisions made on more student housing not put where people want it
- Stop putting up more and more rental units by the college

M-45...

- New M-45 is huge improvement
- Boulevard looks great
- Impressed with M-45...lighting, landscaping
- Boulevard is a huge success
- The new M-45 boulevard was a much needed improvement
- Please continue to tell people that the left turns on M-45 are one lane...not to cut off other drivers
- Keep M-45 landscaping looking neat...weeds in the bushes
- Landscaping in center of LMD has way too many signs
- Would like to see a turn lane going westbound on M-45 just west of 68th (before Brown and Valley View)
- Cut back all bushes and grasses at the intersections on M-45
- We think there are too many light poles
- I would like to see signs on M-45, showing single or double lanes traffic for the left turns...this is confusing
- Reduce speed on M-45
- Allow signs to be put in the M-45 median...garage sales...open houses, etc.
- I am frustrated with the lack of progress of the M-45 boulevard development

Parks and Recreation...

- Was disappointed that the millage for parks was turned down
- The new playground is awesome
- Need fitness/bike trail...something like they have at Reeds Lake
- Roller rink
- Keep upgrading the park
- Would love to see a dedicated bike system...it is hard to ride with all the traffic on the roads that are so heavily traveled
- Water park in the park
- Would love to have an ice skating arena...outdoors
- Need sledding park and outdoor ice skating rink
- I think there are greater needs in the community than fixing up the corner of 68th and M-45
- Don't think taxpayers should pay \$25 to use the picnic shelter
- Senior softball league
- Need more parking by ball fields

Planning...

- Thank you for allowing new businesses ...my concern that developers are using up too much land
- Planning is paying off
- Allendale is cohesive and well put together
- Growth is well planned and monitored
- Like township's role in guiding development
- We are going in the right direction...please continue to think openly and positively about classy stores
- Controlled/planned growth is good
- Developing very nicely
- Terrible planning
- Your master plan is not good economics

Protection of natural features...

- Keep the trees
- Continue to keep open spaces

Residential Development...

- Subdivisions by schools are fantastic

Rental registration...

- In view of the large amount of rental units, the regulations adopted so far are so needed, and perhaps need expanded to protect residential areas more

Roads...

- Why in the world do we still have unpaved roads in the township?
- Pave 88th Ave.
- Pave Warner to 48th Ave.
- New bridge going to C'ville
- Need program to pave dirt roads
- Pave more roads...ask the County to pay for it
- Semi truck air breaking as they approach 68th Ave. needs to be stopped...very loud in the early morning
- The roads were plowed terrible last year, worst ever
- Need traffic light at 68th and Pierce
- Snow plow drivers need to do a better job
- I would like to see a no overnight parking zone on Jordan St....we have an ongoing problem with GVSU students

Schools...

- Great school district
- Great schools
- We love the schools
- Schools are getting somewhat better
- Excellent school system

Seniors...

- Would like to see a senior center

Sidewalks...

- We strongly feel that the sidewalks add to the safety as well as greatly add to the feeling of community...vehicle traffic is very heavy...we need to provide a safe area for walking and bicycling
- Keep putting in sidewalks
- Need a bike trail linking 68th Ave. to GVSU...it is dangerous to ride on M-45
- Need some way for bikers and walkers to cross M-45 between 48th Ave. and 68th Ave.
- Need more sidewalks and bike paths
- Finish sidewalks on 68th
- What we need is bike paths, not non-motorized pathways...those are a waste of money

Miscellaneous...

- You are doing a good job
- Thanks for asking and letting us bring our issues to your attention
- Small town atmosphere with big city conveniences
- Many amenities close by

Miscellaneous...(continued)

- Great growing community
- New park amenities on 68/LMD certainly helps the looks of the community
- We are happy to be part of Allendale
- Allendale is becoming a great place to live, as long as we don't get too big
- I think you are doing a great job...Allendale is a great community to live in
- We can be thankful for what we have here...we have it very good...God bless you all...God bless Allendale
- Thanks for surveying the community
- Thank you for taking the time to ask!
- Allendale is a good looking town
- Thanks for asking!
- 1/2 hour from Grand Haven, Holland and Grand Rapids...perfect
- Allendale has been a very good place to raise our family
- We need a recycle center
- Letters on outdoor sign in front of township office too small to safely read when driving
- Expand spring cleanup to include yard waste
- Need better/expanded festivals
- Need updated website
- Better farmers market
- Had to get information on a couple different situations...left messages...never returned my call...not good
- Need a noise ordinance
- I'm talking with friends in neighboring communities...their water and sewer as well as property taxes are not as elevated as we have in Allendale
- Concerned that subdivisions will lose their well water
- Need a park and ride lot for car pooling
- Need better medical services/urgent care
- Concerned with the number of empty buildings along M-45
- Need a better farmers market
- Expand natural gas area
- Housing market in Allendale is so poor that we can't move away
- This town doesn't have a small town feel...it feels like we are nothing...it isn't even a good farm community
- Dogs roam freely while we keep ours on a leash
- Consider night sky friendly lighting...keep open fields
- Need to control the growth
- We are stuck in trailer park because of poor housing sales in Allendale

Miscellaneous...(continued)

- We are very concerned about the shrinking water table levels...help protect our water
- Stop trying to be Mayberry...stop with your small town feel already...residence want growth...if you want a small town atmosphere, move to the UP...lets roll
- Need a central downtown in Allendale
- Too conservative politically and socially
- Need liquor sales on Sunday in Allendale...get with it
- Do not raise taxes
- The cigarette butts that I see on the ground outside of the library, stores and in parking lots look terrible
- Disappointed that farm land is disappearing
- People in the trailer parks need to pay property taxes too...lower taxes for families with no kids